

As in previous typhoons, Guam Power Authority crews were positioned and ready to battle the elements in order to keep the island's power system up and running. But Typhoon Paka was not a typical storm. As winds grew in intensity, and conditions grew increasingly more dangerous, the GPA crews were forced to ride out the storm at their respective worksites until the all-clear signal. The task that faced them the next morning was gargantuan. Power lines were dangling in the streets, in parking lots and in people's yards all over the island. They were tangled in wreckage and lying in broken pieces across roadways and along roadsides. Hundreds of transformers and thousands of street lights were ripped from their perches and scattered everywhere. Many were smashed beyond repair. Throughout the island wooden and concrete power poles broken, bent, tipped and even uprooted.

After assessing the damage, GPA announced that it would take at least three months or longer to restore service islandwide. The lengthy repair time was disheartening but not unreasonable given the immensity of the task. With Christmas around the corner, the sadness and disappointment in the faces of the people of Guam must have inspired the men and women of the Guam Power Authority to rise to the challenge. Instead of three months, GPA set an ambitious new goal of eight weeks.

With help from as far away as Hawaii and California, and from as close as the Northern Marianas, Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia, the Guam Power Authority worked long and hard to make Guam's holiday season as bright with light as possible. The Air Force also came to Guam's rescue with military line crews, heavy equipment and supplies, as well as providing nine C-5 flights to transport these and other personnel and materials to Guam. Our neighbors in the region also sent barges loaded with wooden and concrete poles, as well as transformers, electrical wire and other electrical supplies. All in all, 95 line personnel, 34 bucket trucks and 63 auxiliary line vehicles were brought in to augment GPA's equipment and 200 line personnel and 100 contractor crews. Priority was given to Guam's pumps and water wells, and running water was restored within days of the storm's passing. In the days that followed, GPA replaced nearly 700 transformers, nearly 100 concrete poles and some 800 wooden poles. Crews also re-strung hundreds of miles of primary and secondary electrical lines. At this time, GPA is concentrating on replacing nearly 3,000 street lights island wide and reconnecting residential power as homes are repaired.

In the ten weeks since the storm, the line crews have been most visible to the public. They and their heavy equipment have been seen all over the island, working around the clock to restore the system. GPA General Manager Ricardo Unpingco also did a commendable job of keeping the public informed, delivering daily progress reports and fielding questions from the public via the news media. But Mr. Unpingco and the line crews were not alone in this massive and ambitious endeavor. Behind the scenes, many other employees of GPA worked just as long, just as hard, often attending to tasks that were not in their job descriptions, to support the restoration work. Lastly, the biggest, most understanding and most loyal supporters of GPA's restoration

work have been the families—the wives, husbands, sons, daughters and loved ones of GPA employees, many of whom were also typhoon damage victims.

I rise today on behalf of the people of Guam to commend and to thank all the men and women of the Guam Power Authority, the personnel from the Saipan Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Belau Public Utilities, Yap State Public Services Corporation, Pohnpei Utilities Commission, Hawaiian Electric Company, Southern California Edison, and the United States Air Force, and especially the families of all these fine people, for all the efforts and sacrifices they made to restore electrical power to Guam. Si Yu'os ma'ase hamyu todos; si Yu'os en fanbendisi.

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, the City of Los Angeles has designated the week of March 1, 1998 as "Childhood Cancer Awareness Week." In honor of this proclamation, I ask my colleagues to join me in calling attention to the tragedy of childhood cancer and in working to defeat this debilitating enemy of our children.

Cancer is the leading cause of death in the United States today. Each year, approximately 10,000 American children are diagnosed with cancer. Moreover, it is the leading cause of death by disease among children in our country. While great strides are made each year in research, treatment, and prevention of childhood cancer, we must remain vigilant in our efforts to search for cures and more effective treatments.

I ask my colleagues to reaffirm their dedication to eliminating childhood cancer and to take a moment to express their appreciation to the devoted individuals working in the fight against this dreaded disease.

HONORING SALINE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WINNERS

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say a few words about a group of constituents in Saline, Michigan whose contributions to their community merit respect and recognition.

Tom Kirvan is managing editor of the Reporter newspapers. His friends and colleagues have named him their Citizen of the Year for his tireless work on behalf of others. Through his involvement with Big Brothers/Big Sisters or the Council on Alcoholism, Tom has been in every way a true public servant.

Rick Kuss is Saline's mayor and is well-known for his work on historic preservation and his efforts to improve Saline. Rick is a person with a great sense of community. The Chamber has rightly recognized his contributions by awarding him the Georgia A. Anderson Vision Award.

Dale Rothfuss is a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Saline Chamber.

A retiree, Dale has spent his free time helping others at the area Senior Center, the American Legion, and Saline Community Hospital.

Joann Steiner has also been awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award. A dedicated public servant, Joann has served the Department of Public Works for 35 years. I am proud to join the Chamber in commending her achievements.

Mr. Speaker, in my opinion, one of the hallmarks of good citizenship is the willingness to take of your own time to devote to others. I therefore think it fitting that we recognize these four people for their significant achievements.

THE AVENUE OF THE PINES

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, one of the most attractive streets in New York State will soon be a virtual monument to the work of one of the state's finest companies, Finch, Pruyn & Company, Inc. It's not only one of the most famous tree-lined avenues in the Capital District, but in my opinion one of the most beautiful in the country. It's the Avenue of the Pines in the Saratoga Spa State Park.

My primary district office is in Saratoga Springs and I always look for an excuse to take Avenue of the Pines whenever I visit a neighboring community. That's why I'm glad to see that the avenue's priceless stand of more than 150 white and red pines is getting such attention from a company well-qualified to render it.

Finch, Pruyn & Company has long been an outstanding corporate neighbor in my hometown of Glens Falls. Its president and CEO, Dick Carota, is a real up-from-the-ranks kind of guy who knows every job description in the company from personal experience. He's a real All-American success story, and Finch, Pruyn is an All-American kind of company, providing not only employment, but a nicer place to live for everybody.

In addition to being a giant in the paper industry, Finch, Pruyn directs a nationally-recognized forest management program. In partnership with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the company will do borings near the site to determine the age of the trees. Finch, Pruyn will then conduct further research on the effects of vehicular traffic, snow and ice maintenance practices, road salt, wildlife, pests, and diseases.

Four rows of trees were first planted in 1912. Six years later, the walkway was widened and paved for use by vehicles. There have been some modifications since then, but the avenue remains what it always was, one of the most enjoyable stretches of driving in the entire country.

Mr. Speaker, Finch, Pruyn's scientists are the best, and the people of our district can be sure the study will be as thorough as it is interesting. Finch, Pruyn was a pioneer in the field of sustainable forestry as far back as the last century, and later hired the country's best professional foresters. The company is equally advanced in protecting the environment. The company has invested more than \$100 million in the last three decades, including \$10 million

in a new elemental chlorine-free pulp bleaching system.

Mr. Speaker, my friend Dick Carota, Finch, Pruy's president and CEO, likes to do a little play on words, attributing the company's success to what he calls "Finch Pride."

He and every last employee have a right to be proud. So am I, and so is an entire community. I invite you, Mr. Speaker, and every member of this body to come on up and visit us any time, to see community and corporate cooperation at its finest.

A DEAL THAT'S WORSE THAN WORTHLESS

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 3, 1998

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend a recent column by Charles Krauthammer of the Washington Post to the attention of my colleagues.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 27, 1998]

A DEAL THAT'S WORSE THAN WORTHLESS

PEACE IN OUR TIME—AGAIN

Two days before Kofi Annan made his "breakthrough" in Baghdad, the U.N. Security Council, with U.S. approval, authorized a huge increase in the amount of oil that Iraq can sell. In an stroke, this "humanitarian" gesture doubled Iraq's oil income to \$10.5 billion a year. Iraq can now sell nearly 2 million barrels a day—about two-thirds of the oil it was selling when producing at peak capacity before the embargo. And that number does not even count the oil that we know Saddam is illegally smuggling through Iranian coastal waters.

At this U.N.- and U.S.-authorized level, Iraq—under sanctions!—becomes the *eighth-largest oil exporter in the world*.

This embargo-buster passed with little fanfare. It barely made the back pages of the newspapers. All hands pretended, moreover, that there was no linkage between this bonanza and the subsequent Saddam-Annan deal in Baghdad.

But remember that last November, when the administration was desperately looking for a way out of the last Iraq crisis, the State Department said we'd be willing to offer Saddam a "carrot" to get him to be nice. Such as? Such as a sharp increase in the amount of "humanitarian" oil that Iraq could sell.

So last time, when Saddam broke the Gulf War agreements and kicked out U.S. arms inspectors, the carrot was offered. This time, when Saddam broke the Gulf War agreements and stymied all the arms inspectors, the carrot was delivered.

Last time, President Clinton flapped about threateningly, then watched meekly as the Russian foreign minister brokered a "compromise." This time, Clinton flapped about threateningly, then watched meekly as the U.N. secretary general brokered a new "compromise."

Last time, Clinton's U.N. ambassador crowed that Saddam had "blinked." This time, Madeleine Albright's spokesman deemed the deal "win-win" for us.

Last time, the deal turned out to be completely worthless, giving Saddam four more months to hide his nasty stuff. This time, the deal is worse than worthless, giving Saddam crucial victories on the two issues he cares most about: economic sanctions and weapons inspections.

1. Sanctions. Not only did Saddam incur no penalty for his open defiance of the United Nations and open provocation of the United States, he was treated by Annan with a deference and flattery that bordered on the indecent. Moreover, the Annan-Saddam Memorandum of Understanding breathes not a word of criticism about Iraq's violating previous agreements, nor about its creating this crisis. On the contrary, Annan trashed his own arms inspectors (UNSCOM) as unruly "cowboys" and undertook, in writing, to bring Saddam's ultimate objective, the lifting of sanctions, "to the full attention of the members of the Security Council."

Sure enough, upon his return to New York, Annan began emphasizing the need to show Iraq "the light at the end of the tunnel," the Iraqi code phrase for ending sanctions. Like Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov, who brokered the first nonagreement in November, Annan has become Saddam's sanctions-lifting advocate to the world. Unlike Saddam buddy and ex-KGB biggie Primakov, however, Annan is an effective shill.

2. Inspections. The United States had demanded no retreat from free and full access and no tampering by Iraq with the composition and authority of UNSCOM teams. Annan came back with a radical change in the composition of the inspection teams and a serious erosion of their authority. Inspection of "presidential sites," those huge complexes with hundreds of buildings where Saddam could be hiding anything, is taken away from control of UNSCOM, the tough inspectors whose probity we can rely on.

These sites are instead entrusted to a new body, headed by an Annan appointee. It will comprise political appointees, including diplomat-spies from Iraq-friendly France, Russia and China, as well as inspectors who presumably possess the requisite delicacy and sensitivity to Iraqi feelings. Iraqis can be so touchy about their stores of poison gas and anthrax.

How do you carry out a spot inspection—the only kind that has any hope of finding anything—when you first have to notify and await the arrival of, say, the Russian appointee, who has a hot line to the very Iraqi regime he is supposed to inspect? Inspector Clouseau has a better chance of finding concealed nerve gas than this polyglot outfit of compromised politicians and handpicked inspectors.

So tote it up. For Saddam: No penalty. Annan shilling for his demand to end all sanctions. UNSCOM undermined. Presidential palaces secure for storing anthrax and such. And his oil output doubled.

Another triumph of Clinton diplomacy.

1998 CONGRESSIONAL OBSERVANCE OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate African American History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the 86 African American recipients of the nation's highest military award for valor, the Medal of Honor. These medals of Honor were awarded for acts of bravery performed from the Civil War through the Vietnam Era.

Last year the President took steps to right a serious wrong, by acknowledging that not one Medal of Honor was awarded to an African

American during World War II due to discrimination and other factors. On January 13, 1997 the President awarded the Medal of Honor to seven World War II African American heroes. The Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen also hosted a Pentagon ceremony on February 19, 1997 and paid tribute to the three surviving African American recipients of the Medal of Honor. During the ceremony the "Legacy of Valor" videotape tribute was presented, followed by the unveiling of an exhibit honoring the 86 African American recipients.

I find the following words, as contained in the Department of Defense "Legacy of Valor" tribute to be of particular significance;

"Eighty-six African Americans have earned the Nation's top award for valor, the Medal of Honor. Their legacy of valor is the thrilling story of African Americans in defense of freedom and justice. The stories of these 86 Medal of Honor recipients account for some of the most astonishing acts of bravery and personal sacrifice in the history of our armed forces. Through it all, despite an American legacy rooted deeply in slavery, each and everyone of them, by supreme sacrifice and devotion to duty, in the words of the great African American poet, Langston Hughes, boldly declared, 'I too am American.'"

They demonstrated that African Americans have earned the right through military sacrifice and achievement alone, to be true Americans economically, politically, and socially. All Americans can take heartfelt pride in this illustrious record which, unfortunately, too frequently has gone unnoticed.

Although 86 African Americans received the Medal of Honor in military conflicts from the Civil War to Vietnam, due to discrimination and other factors, not one was awarded the Medal of Honor during World Wars I and II.

In 1991, however, President George Bush awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously to a World War I African American hero.

Additionally, on January 13, 1997, at a White House ceremony, President William Jefferson Clinton awarded seven Medals of Honor to African American WWII heroes. Six of those medals were awarded posthumously to the families of the honorees and the seventh Medal of Honor was presented to the only living WWII honoree.

All Americans owe a special debt of gratitude to these 86 African American heroes. Despite slavery, segregation, discrimination, and bitter disappointment they defended America with their very lives. When the chips were down, to paraphrase the incomparable General Douglass MacArthur, they understood the hallowed words, "Duty, Honor, Country, Freedom and Justice." These words were their rallying point to build courage when courage seemed to fail; to regain faith, when there seemed to be little cause for faith; to create hope when hope became forlorn. These words taught them not to substitute words for action nor to seek the path of comfort but to face the stress and sharp spur of difficulty head-on; to learn to stand up in the storm, but have compassion for those who fall; to reach into the future, yet never neglect the past. In their belief in God and family, in their strength, in their love and loyalty, many of them gave all that mortals can give.

"Oh beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain, for purple mountains majesties, above the fruited plains . . ." The wonderful song "America the Beautiful" begins.